

RECOGNIZING MS. MELISSA FYE AND MR. JIM JENKINS

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HON. FRANK R. WOLF

of Virginia

in the House of Representatives

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two outstanding constituents and educators from the 10th Congressional District of Virginia. Melissa Fye and Jim Jenkins are to be commended for their extraordinary efforts to bring real scientific research to the classroom.

Melissa Fye, elementary school teacher at Ashburn Elementary School in Ashburn, VA, and Jim Jenkins, elementary school teacher at Mountain View Elementary School in Purcellville, VA, were chosen by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to participate in the Teacher at Sea Program. This three-week-long research program involved a trip to sea in the Pacific Ocean this spring. As Teachers at Sea, Ms. Fye participated in coral reef research and Mr. Jenkins participated in fisheries and ocean current research.

Ms. Fye embarked on NOAA Ship HI'IALAKAI in Honolulu, Hawaii, and cruised in the waters of the south Pacific. Mr. Jenkins's cruise, on the other hand, explored cold Alaskan waters, where he embarked on NOAA Ship MILLER FREEMAN in Kodiak, Alaska, and disembarked in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. While onboard, Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins wrote lesson plans, maintained daily logs, took photographs, interviewed scientists, and engaged in dialogue with their students, other teachers and students, and the general public. Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins participated in the Teacher at Sea experience in order to enrich their curriculum and excite their students about the sciences.

In her final log, Ms. Fye wrote that she `` . . . wants [her] students to know that life is not a collection of things, but a collection of experiences . . . [and hopes] this trip--the resources and anecdotal stories [she] brings back to the classroom--encourages them to explore opportunities as they arise in their own lives."

Mr. Jenkins engaged his students each day in daily e-mail messages. In one message, Mr. Jenkins told his students that he has `` . . . been impressed by the cooperative spirit of everyone on [NOAA ship] MILLER FREEMAN," and, in turn, encouraged his students to work together as a team while he was at sea.

Both Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins were supported by a partnership between

the Loudoun Education Foundation and the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program. I commend the Loudoun Education Foundation, and also the Loudoun County school district, for supporting the efforts of these two teachers to promote scientific education in the classroom.

I congratulate Ms. Fye and Mr. Jenkins on their spirit of adventure in the name of education, their willingness to try new things, and their ability to bring this experience back into the classroom.

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